

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please **replace** the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4 (under the heading "Cross Reference to Related Applications") with the following **amended** paragraph:

--        This patent application is related to simultaneously filed U.S. Patent Application No. ~~XXXXXX~~10/055,076, filed ~~XXXX~~January 23, 2002 (Attorney Docket No. PU020003) entitled DUAL CHIEN SEARCH BLOCKS IN AN ERROR-CORRECTING DECODER; and U.S. Patent Application No. ~~XXXXXX~~10/055,470, filed ~~XXXX~~January 23, 2002 (Attorney Docket No. PU020001) entitled CHIEN SEARCH CELL FOR AN ERROR-CORRECTING DECODER, both of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.        --